

Message Text

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L/SCA:RDALTON (SUBS)

SCA/SCS:AANTIPPAS (PHONE)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINS, CASC, SF, US, PFOR

SUBJ: REPORTED REFUSAL OF SAG TO GRANT U.S. CITIZEN

ACCESS TO CONSULAR OFFICER

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY A MR. BERT FOX, WHO SAYS HE IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, THAT HE WAS RECENTLY DETAINED FOR A PERIOD OF MORE THAN SIXTEEN HOURS BY SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES IN UMTATA AND PORT ELIZABETH, WITHOUT OPPORTUNITY TO TELEPHONE EITHER A LAWYER OR UNITED STATES CONSUL, DESPITE HIS REQUEST THAT HE BE ALLOWED TO DO SO.

2. CIRCUMSTANCES AS DESCRIBED BY MR. FOX ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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HE WAS WORKING WITH A CANADIAN FILM TEAM MAKING A DOCU-

MENTARY ON AFRIKANER NATIONALISM. BEFORE GOING TO SOUTH AFRICA, TEAM CONTACTED A MR. KOETSE OF SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN OTTAWA, WHO INFORMED DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION IN PRETORIA OF THEIR PLANS. TEAM MEMBERS SPENT A WEEK IN PRETORIA WHERE THEY WORKED WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION, WHICH PROVIDED VARIOUS FORMS OF ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERVIEWS IN PRETORIA-JOHANNESBURG AREA. (FOX SAID HE WORKED WITH A MR. LOIDER (PHONETIC) IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION). ALTHOUGH MEMBERS OF TEAM WERE CONCERNED THAT THEY DID

NOT HAVE WORK PERMITS, THEY WERE ASSURED THAT THEIR APPLICATIONS WERE BEING PROCESSED AND THAT THEY SHOULD CONTINUE THEIR WORK. ON JUNE 9 TEAM PROCEEDED TO UMTATA ACCORDING TO A SCHEDULE WORKED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION. HOWEVER, AT TEN O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING, TWO HOURS AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL THERE, THEY WERE ARRESTED AND TAKEN TO EAST LONDON PRISON WHERE THEY WERE HELD INCOMMUNICADO UNTIL NEARLY THREE O'CLOCK THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON. AUTHORITIES INDICATED INDIVIDUALS WERE ARRESTED UNDER AUTHORITY OF ALIENS ACT OF 1937 FOR BEING WITHOUT A WORK PERMIT. HOWEVER THEY WERE NEVER FORMALLY CHARGED AND NO RESPONSE WAS EVER GIVEN TO THEIR PROTESTATIONS THAT OFFICIALS OF DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION WERE AWARE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES AND HAD ADVISED THEM TO CONTINUE.

3. UPON THEIR RELEASE, FILM CREW WERE REQUIRED TO SIGN A PAPER ATTESTING TO THE LEGALITY OF THEIR DEPORTATION AND WERE TOLD TO LEAVE COUNTRY IMMEDIATELY. CANADIANS CONTACTED THEIR CONSULAR OFFICIALS (PRESUMABLY IN JOHANNESBURG) WHO INDICATED THEY HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED EARLIER BY SOUTH AFRICANS OF THEIR DETENTION.

4. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO INQUIRE INTO THIS REPORT IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER SUCH A DETENTION WITHOUT PROMPT NOTIFICATION TO THE EMBASSY DID TAKE PLACE AND WHETHER THERE WERE ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MIGHT EXPLAIN THIS SEQUENCE OF EVENTS. ? IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO CHECK

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WITH CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA ON THIS MATTER. KISSINGER

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TAGS: PINS, CASC, PFOR, SF, US, (FOX, BERT)
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